

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 H-01 MCT-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1216
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1518

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP PEPR PINR PLO HU XF XG
SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN HUNGARY

REF: (A) BUDAPEST 1131 (B) STATE 91578

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO REF (B).
2. THERE IS PLO OFFICE IN HUNGARY WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1971. ACTING DIRECTOR OF OFFICE IS ABDULLA HIGAZI WHO, PRIOR HIS ARRIVAL ONE AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO, WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PLO OFFICE IN WARSAW. HIGAZI IS PALESTINIAN MARRIED TO EGYPTIAN, STUDIED AT EL AZHAR UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO. THERE ARE TWO OTHER "PROFESSIONAL" PALESTINIANS ON HIS STAFF, BOTH
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MALES, PLUS FOUR LOCAL PERSONNEL EMPLOYED IN PLO OFFICE.
PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IS KNOWN SIMPLY AS "OFFICE
OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION."

3. AS REPORTED REF (A), PLO ACCREDITATION WAS RECENTLY UPGRADED FROM NATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE TO PATRIOTIC PEOPLE'S FRONT (PPF). THIS OCCURED AT TIME OF VISIT

OF FARUQ QADDUMI WHO WAS RECEIVED BY HSWP CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND BY HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. MFA HAS TOLD EGYPTIANS THAT THESE ACTIONS WERE PART OF HUNGARIAN EFFORTS TO PLACE ITS RELATIONS WITH PLO ON HIGHER FOOTING IN LINE WITH ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY HUNGARY'S ALLIES. MFA SAID MOVE WAS "NOT A HUNGARIAN INITIATIVE." HUNGARIANS MINIMIZED IMPORTANCE OF STEP WHEN SPEAKING TO EGYPTIANS. FOR THEIR PART, LATTER REGARD MOVE AS COSMETIC, DESIGNED TO GIVE APPEARANCE OF SOME SUBSTANCE OF INCREASED COMMUNIST COUNTRY SUPPORT FOR PLO AND RADICAL ARABS.

4. EGYPTIANS SAY THAT PLO OFFICE ACTIVITIES IN BUDAPEST RE LARGELY INFORMATIONAL. THEY SEEM TO BE DISTRIBUTING MATERIALS IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND ARABIC (TO ARABIC EMBASSIES). ACCORDING TO EGYPTIANS, PLO OFFICE CHIEF IS NOT RECEIVED IN MFA AND HAS ALL HIS OFFICIALS DEALINGS WITH GOH THROUGH SEMI-OFFICIAL PPF. PLO IS NOT IN DIPLOMATIC LIST.

5. HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT PROVIDES APARTMENT TO PLO AT GOH EXPENSE WHICH SERVES AS OFFICE. GOH ALSO PROVIDES TWO APARTMENTS FOR PLO STAFF AND A CAR, PLUS, IT IS BELIEVED, ONE-HALF MILLION FORINTS PER YEAR EXPENSES. WE BELIEVE THAT PLO REPS HAVE DUTY FREE CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES. SINCE THEY ARE NOT ACCREDITED TO

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MFA, WE DOUBT IF THEY HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

6. AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE ARE NO OTHER PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED IN HUNGARY. THERE IS A SYRIAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATIONS BUT WE DON NOT KNOW IF ANY PALESTINIAN STUDENTS BELONG TO IT OR NOT.
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